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SEASON 1893.
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FLOWER
AND
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Hongkong, 10th September, 1893.

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ordered for a fixed period will be continued until
countermanded.
Orders for extra copies of this *Daily Press* should
be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.
After that hour no supply is limited.

DEATH.
At Donk Island, Straits, on the 21st September,
1893, at the residence of his son-in-law, F. W. Fooker,
Pilot, GORRISON BRISSET, in his 75th year, formerly
of Melbourne and New Zealand. Australian papers
please copy. (1893)

The Daily Press.
HONGKONG, SEPTEMBER 27th, 1893.

Tax Estimates for 1897 show that the
financial position of the Colony is eminently
sound. The total receipts for the present
year are now estimated at \$1,304,263, and
the ordinary expenditure at \$1,193,472, leaving
a surplus of \$110,791 to go towards de-
fraying the various extraordinary public
works now in progress. For next year the
revenue is estimated at \$1,291,270, and the
ordinary expenditure at \$1,248,772, leaving
a surplus of \$44,498, but both revenue and
expenditure will doubtless exceed the esti-
mates. For the present year the revised
estimates give an excess of \$72,290 of re-
venue over the original estimates, while
the expenditure is only increased by the
small sum of \$41,080. The extraordinary
expenditure for next year is estimated at
\$760,000, of which \$150,000 are on account
of the Typhoon Waters (expected to be
completed during the next year), \$250,000
on account of the defence works, \$100,000 on
account of sanitary works, \$75,000 on ac-
count of new water mains, and \$50,000 each
for the new Central School, Police buildings
extension, and the new Central Market; \$25,
000 for improvements at Kennedy Town, and
\$10,000 for Kowloon roads and drains.
These, with the exception of the last item, are
all works which have already been fully dis-
cussed and approved, and it must be allowed
that they are works which may justly be
described as extraordinary and charged to the
balances and loan. It would of course be
possible by including under the heading of
extraordinary works various items properly
describable as ordinary ex-
penditure to make the finances of the
colony appear more flourishing than they
really are, but we have been unable to
detect any instance in which this has been
done. The balance of revenue over ordinary
expenditure is, therefore, a perfectly sound
one, and it exists after making allowance for
payment of interest on the portion of the
loan to be contracted next year, and for a
larger loss in exchange on the remittance of
the military contribution than is at all likely
to take place. The amount provided for in-
terest on the loan amounts to \$65,000, which
is the principal item in the increase over the
present year's estimates. On this item the
Acting Governor in his minute says:—"The
anticipations of the Special Committee of the
Legislative Council on the recently pro-
posed Stamp Bill in April last that this
extra expenditure could be met without extra
taxation have fortunately thus far been re-
alized." The anticipations will, we have no
doubt, continue to be realized. Notwith-
standing complaints of bad times the value
of property in the colony is steadily increas-
ing, new industrial works are projected, the
population is growing, and there is every

reason to believe that great as has been the
progress of the colony in the past it will be
equally bright for the future. There is,
therefore, no reason for apprehension that
the charges on account of the loan will ever
be felt as a serious burden on the colony's
finances, and so far from additional taxation
becoming necessary we think it will be long
before found possible to reduce the house
rates from 13 per cent. to the former figure
of 12 per cent. In the estimates of ordinary
expenditure there are no special features to
note, beyond the interest on the loan and the
loss of exchange on the military contribution,
already mentioned. There are, as is usually
the case, a few increases in salaries, amount-
ing to close on \$11,000. To these the un-
official members will probably not consider
it necessary to offer any objection. Long
and good service merits recognition, and it is
not by keeping salaries at a low level that
economy in the service should be effected so
much as by abolishing anything in the
nature of a sinecure, and seeing that every
man in the service renders a fair return for
the amount he draws from the revenue.
Mr. Maclean's suggestion that the amounts
should be voted in detail, instead of in a
lump sum, will give the unofficial members
much better opportunity of criticising the
estimates than they have hitherto had, but
this year we think they will find little room
for criticism.

The death of the uncle of His Majesty the
King of Siam is reported.

The French cruiser *Sigolite*, Commander
Kraus, left here on Saturday for Whampoa.

The Spanish corvette *Talisco*, Commander E.
F. Buzan, having completed her repairs at the
Kowloon Dock, left here yesterday for Manila.

The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire) in-
form us that the O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Talisco*,
from Liverpool, left Singapore on the 21st inst.
for this port.

Matters were pretty quiet at the Police Court
on Saturday. The amount of business before
the court was small, and there was no case
worthy of record.

The British steamer *Nanon*, which arrived
here on Friday night, having passed the
British composite gun-vessel *Hammer* at anchor
outside Sharp Peak.

We learn from the Agent that the Messageries
Maritimes steamer *Djemah*, with the net out-
ward French mail, left Saigon for this port at
10 a.m. yesterday (Sunday).

H. E. Kang, Taoist of Shanghai, took over
the seals of his office at 12.30 p.m. on the 18th
September. All the local officials went to the
yamen to congratulate him.

L'Echo de Shanghai says that Mr. Yen, the
Chinese Resident in Korea, has been recalled.
The same paper mentions that Mr. Wong Tsai,
member of the Hanlin, as his successor.

Some time ago, one of the Tientsin forts was
partially knocked down by the tide. The *Daily News*
reports that the repairs have now been completed,
and that the fort is in good order again.

The British barque *Vol Molle*, which arrived
at Shanghai from Barnard's Inlet on the 17th
September, reports experiencing a typhoon off
the coast of China, where she sustained no
damage through it.

The following vessels were in the Tientsin
river on the 18th Sept.—Schooners C. *Gibert*
(of Antwerp), *Minkong*; barges *Batavia* and
Calcutta; and schooner *Chamford*; steamers
Johanna and *Poochi*.

The Agent informs us that the Pacific Mail
S. S. Co.'s steamer *City of Sydney*, with mails,
from San Francisco to the 4th inst., has
arrived at Yokohama and was to call for this
port yesterday, the 25th inst.

The German barque *Papa*, which arrived here
late on Friday night from Hamburg, reports
having experienced a S.W. gale in lat. 42S. and
long. 44 E., during which the carpenter was
washed overboard and her wheel was lost.

It is notified in Saturday's *Gazette* that His
Excellency the Acting Governor has appointed,
provisionally, Mr. Theodor von Frey, Acting
Chief Inspector of Police, to be First Clerk
at the Magistracy, vice Mr. James Parker, in-
valid.

The German squadron, consisting of the
Bismarck, *Ola*, *Carola* and *Wolf*, were met by
the steamer *Huizinga* off Chiao Tung, bound for
the coast of Korea, and were ordered to stop
and nine Chinese men-of-war at Chefoo on the
same date.

A line of steamers to run between Hong
and Chungking seems now likely to be es-
tablished, as we (N. O. *Daily News*) learn that
Captain A. E. Knight, of the *Yangtze*, and
another officer are going up the Yangtze to
survey it beyond Hong.

According to the *Canton Observer* a new
practice has come officially into fashion in that
island. The Colonial Secretary has set about
taking out of the local papers in which
appears anything bearing upon public affairs,
and sending them to the parties alluded to for
report.

We (*Daily News*) recently mentioned that the
steamer *Chia* and a junk had been in collision
outside Taku. We learn that the repairs to the
Chia cost £1,700. The junk was last week
taken in tow by three tugs, which pulled her
out of the water and towed her to the wharf. The
tugs were within three miles of Taku Bay.

The Nagasaki *Rising Sun* is responsible for
the following:—"Within the last few weeks the
Italian Government has decided to suppress
its consuls at St. Petersburg, Belgrade, Shang-
hai, Yokohama, and Tientsin, when the consular
agents of the Italian Government will be reduced
to a clerk. It is proposed to transfer the
seat of the legation in China from Peking to
Shanghai."

The Thibetians, it is now clear, say the *Pan-
der*, had never the least intention of allowing
Mr. Maclean's Mission to cross the frontier.
They occupied the Jialap Pass and have since
been driven out as far as the King's Pass in
Sikkim territory, within ten miles of our
border at Ehenok. We have already mentioned
and reported the road from Ehenok to Jialap La,
but our report was based upon the opinion of
the term the establishment is to be purchased
by the Government. The applicants guarantee
to build a usually strong bridge in the yard for
the use of the mission, and to provide the
Government will grant the application.

A public meeting, numerously attended, was
held at Shanghai on the 20th September, for
the purpose of considering the proposed change
in the postal arrangements in that port. After
some discussion the following resolution was
passed and carried:

"That whereas the present mail service at this port
is unsatisfactory to the Community, and whereas it
is feared that any change in the system by which
the carrying of the mails would be entrusted
to the Chinese will not be an improvement but
the reverse, therefore resolved that in the opinion
of the meeting the withdrawal of the Foreign Post
Office at this port is not to be desired."

The second resolution, proposed by Mr. Levers
and seconded by Mr. Westall, was as follows, and
was also carried:

"That this meeting is of opinion that the Local Post
Office should remain under the control of the Municipal
Council."

The Macaulay Hall, which has been closed for
repairs for the last month, will be re-opened on
the 4th proximo, when a meeting of the Tientsin
Club will be held at the hall, and the hall will
be painted inside and out, and in the
language will be a new polished hardwood floor
has been laid, while the hardwood beams
which formerly supported the roof have been
replaced by iron girders. The beautiful
decorations of the Lodge room have been
thoroughly renovated by Mr. Bapista, and now
and more handsome gas fittings have been in-
troduced, with the effect of greatly enhancing
the appearance of the room.

The following despatch, from Earl Granville,
late Secretary of State for the Colonies, to the
Office Administrator of the Government of Hong-
kong, respecting the recent scarcity of Water,
is published in Saturday's *Gazette* for general
information:

"DOWLING STREET, 19th July, 1893.
Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge your
letter No. 134, of the 12th inst. last, reporting on
the recent scarcity of water in the colony during the
last week, with the exception of Saturday, the 11th,
and Thursday, the 16th. On the 11th the
meeting was not held, in deference to the wish of
the Chinese. As usual in all affairs in which
Chinese officials are concerned, the Chinese
being dragged out to a most unnecessary length
in fact, if rumours and reports are to be credited,
at the present rate of progress there is very
little prospect of the matter being settled for
some weeks, if not for some months, if it is
not settled at all."

With reference to the recent riot at Nagasaki,
the *Rising Sun* of the 18th September says:—"The
joint commission, appointed to investigate and
decide upon the recent Chinese riot at Nagasaki,
has met at the Koshikawa every day during the
past week, with the exception of Saturday, the
11th, and Thursday, the 16th. On the 11th the
meeting was not held, in deference to the wish of
the Chinese. As usual in all affairs in which
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not settled at all."

The *Huizinga* steamer, the co-proprietors of David
& Co., was arrested in Shanghai on the 19th
Sept. by the Chinese authorities. When
his foreign agent heard of this, he went to the
Central Police Station to make inquiries. Cap-
tain Superintendent McEwen sent a native
interpreter to the Chinese authorities, and the
particulars, and at the same time, Mr. David
completed at the British Consulate that the
Chinese runners had no right to arrest his
steamer without his consent, and having been
unintentionally arrested by the Chinese, he
having received a despatch from the British
Consul replying that as the said steamer was
residing in the City the Chinese runners had
a perfect right to arrest him.

His Excellency the Acting Governor will make
the annual inspection of the Fire Brigades of the
colony early in November. During the inspec-
tion the main object will be to see that the
work for the year will come from a fund to
which several insurance companies have prom-
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brigade work of the colony, and is to be appli-
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